Please change the priority of the specification by deleting the first paragraph on page one (1) and replacing with:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/345,861, filed November 28, 1994, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 07/925,405, filed August 4, 1992, now abandoned.—

In the claims

Please cancel claim 74 without prejudice to future prosecution.

Please make the following amendments to the claims and add new claims 170-172.

50. (Twice amended) An oligonucleotide of claim 40, wherein said oligonucleotide is modified at its 3' end to reduce or block extension of said oligonucleotide by a polymerase.

51. (Three times amended) A composition comprising two or more oligonucleotides of claim 40, wherein one or more of said oligonucleotides is unmodified at the 3' end and one or more of said oligonucleotides is modified at the 3' end to reduce or block extension by a polymerase.

54. (Three times amended) The composition of claim 51, wherein one or more of said oligonucleotides is differently modified at the 3' end to reduce or block extension by a polymerase.

75. (Twice amended) A composition for amplification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid comprising first and a second primer oligonucleotides, wherein said first primer consists of the primer oligonucleotide of claim 147, and said second primer consists of an oligonucleotide from about 10 to about 100 nucleotide bases in length which will, under

nucleic acid amplification conditions, hybridize to a region of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7 and its complement.

76. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 75, wherein said first primer oligonucleotide comprises a nucleotide base sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 23 and its complement.

77. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 76, wherein said second primer oligonucleotide comprises a nucleotide base sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7 and its complement.

78. (Twice amended) The composition of any one of claims 75, 76, or 77, wherein one or more primer oligonucleotides further comprises, in the 5' upstream region, a nucleotide base sequence which is recognized by an RNA polymerase and which enhances transcription initiation or polymerization by said RNA polymerase.

79. (Three times amended) The composition of any one of claims 75, 76, or 77, further comprising a nucleic acid hybridization assay probe from about 10 to about 100 nucleotide bases in length which will hybridize with at least 10 contiguous bases of a nucleotide base sequence region of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid to form a detectable duplex under hybridization conditions, wherein said region is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8 and the perfectly complementary sequence thereto.

82. (Twice amended) The composition of claim 79, wherein said probe contains a detectable label.

91. (Amended three times) The composition of claim 89, wherein said probe comprises an oligonucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and the perfectly complementary sequence thereto.

143. (Amended) An oligonucleotide of about 20 to about 100 bases in length consisting of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of xCCAGGCCACTTCCGCTAACC (SEQ ID: 6 or 23), xCGCGGAACAGGCTAAACCGCACGC (SEQ ID: 7), and their fully complementary sequences of the same length, wherein x is nothing or is a sequence recognized by an RNA polymerase.

144. (Amended) A composition comprising two or more oligonucleotides of claim 143, wherein one or more of said oligonucleotides is modified at the 3' end to reduce or block extension of said one or more of said oligonucleotides by a polymerase.

145. (Amended) A composition comprising two or more oligonucleotides of claim 143, wherein one or more of said oligonucleotides is unmodified at the 3' end and one or more of said oligonucleotides is modified at the 3' end to reduce or block extension by a polymerase.

146. (Amended) The composition of claim 145, wherein one or more of said oligonucleotides is differently modified at the 3' end to reduce or block extension by a polymerase.

147. (Amended) A primer oligonucleotide from 10 to 100 nucleotide bases in length able to hybridize to a region of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* nucleic acid, wherein said region consists of a nucleotide base sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 23, and the fully complementary sequence of the same length thereof.

151. (Amended) The primer oligonucleotide of claim 147, comprising a nucleotide base sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 23, and the fully complementary sequence of the same length thereof.